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NEWS
from the
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Information,
Publications and Reports
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20210

Week of March 25, 1974

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# # #

The Local Angle:

REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service—or have a direct news inquiry—you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Assistant Regional Directors for Information and the states in their regions:

Region I ..... Paul F. Neal
Room E-308
JFK Federal Bldg.
Boston, Mass. 02203
617-223-6767

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

Region II ..... Edward I. Weintraub
Room 3510
1515 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10036
212-971-5477

New Jersey
New York
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

Region III ..... John P. Hord
14280 Gateway Bldg.
3535 Market St.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104
215-597-1139

Delaware
District of Columbia
Maryland
Pennsylvania
Virginia
West Virginia

Region IV ..... William I. Allgood
Room 317
1371 Peachtree St., N.E.
Atlanta, Ga. 30309
404-526-5495

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Kentucky

Region V ..... John D. Mellott
12th Floor
300 S. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Ill. 60606
312-353-6976

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
Ohio
Wisconsin

Region VI ..... Les Gaddie
Federal Bldg. &
U.S. Courthouse
Room 7C42
1100 Commerce St.
Dallas, Tex. 75202
214-749-2308

Arkansas
Louisiana
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

Region VII ..... Neal A. Johnson
Federal Office Bldg.
Room 1904
911 Walnut St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64106
816-374-5481

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Region VIII ..... Ernest E. Sanchez
Room 16408
Federal Bldg.
1961 Stout St.
Denver, Co. 80202
303-837-4234

Colorado
Montana
North Dakota
South Dakota
Utah
Wyoming

Region IX ..... Tor Torland
Room 10007
Federal Bldg.
450 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, Calif. 94102
415-556-3423

Arizona
California
Hawaii
Nevada

Region X ..... Ernest Hood
Arcade Plaza
Room 2034
1321 Second Ave.
Seattle, Wash. 98101
296-442-7620

Alaska
Idaho
Oregon
Washington

Week of March 25, 1974

BLACK TEENAGER ENTERS COUNSELING FIELD
THROUGH LABOR DEPARTMENT YOUTH PROGRAM

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- "Without the Neighborhood Youth Corps and my counselor, I couldn't have gotten to where I am today," says Rene McLeod.

Ms. McLeod, an 18-year-old native of Providence, is today a paraprofessional counselor earning $7,000 a year. There is also opportunity for advancement in the counseling position which means that within three years she could be earning $10,000 a year.

Ms. McLeod, the eldest of four children recalls, "I had lost all interest in school and dropped out of the 11th grade in the hope I could find work. We needed the money."

But with no job skills or work experience, Ms. McLeod had no success in finding work.

"I was just hanging around and doing absolutely nothing until a friend told me about the Neighborhood Youth Corps," she explains.

The Labor Department-funded program provides part-time and on-the-job training for high school age youths from low-income families. The program encourages youths to resume their education, and it helps them acquire work experience and attitudes that will improve their employability.

During her enrollment in the Providence program, her day was about equally divided between gaining practical work experience while earning some money and attending classes at the Urban Education Center where she earned her high school equivalency diploma.

In July 1973, Ms. McLeod joined the Career Education Project as a file clerk. She adds, "I also learned how to type on that job."

(MORE)

She later became an intake clerk and was recently selected from among some 15 applicants for the paraprofessional position she holds today.

As a paraprofessional with the counseling project of the National Institute of Education, Ms. McLeod provides career counseling and guidance to youths and adults.

"People who call us may want to change careers, "she notes. "Others want guidance in selecting a career or the right school, while others may be returning to the job market."

On many occasions Ms. McLeod has referred youths to where she got her start--the Providence Neighborhood Youth Corps II project.

Ms. McLeod is attending work-related courses at night to better prepare herself for career advancements in the counseling field.

In describing her work, she says:

"Helping others is the nicest part of my job. There is no greater reward than helping others."

# # #

Week of March 25, 1974

600 MINORITIES, DISADVANTAGED AND VETERANS
TO GET JOBS, TRAINING IN HOUSE CONSTRUCTION TRADES

WASHINGTON -- Nearly 600 jobless workers -- minorities, disadvantaged jobless and veterans -- will be trained on the job in a variety of house construction trades, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan announced.

Under a one-year $809,250 contract, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) will promote and develop subcontracts with member employers for training programs in 11 states.

Of 585 new entry-level positions, about 45 percent will be filled by disadvantaged jobless or underemployed persons. Vietnam-era veterans will be given preference whenever possible, with 40 percent of the opportunities reserved for them.

Another 225 skilled employees will receive additional training to update their skills.

Entry-level training will include two groups:

-- 360 preapprenticeship trainees who will receive six weeks of classroom instruction and 16 weeks of on-the-job training in preparation for apprenticeship;

-- 225 apprenticeship entry trainees who will receive 24 weeks of on-the-job training.

Of total direct training costs, approximately $458,800 will cover on-the-job training, with $143,900 set aside for trainee allowances and $156,500 for classroom instruction.

During the on-the-job phase, new trainees will receive full employee wages and benefits. They will be trained as carpenters, electricians, painters, cement masons, bricklayers, and dry wall mechanics.

(MORE)

The NAHB has trained and placed about 4,250 new apprentices under four previous contracts with the Labor Department.

Under the new contract, both funds and job slots may be transferred among the 11 states, or extended to additional states, wherever need for apprentices is greatest. However, approximate apportionment of trainees and direct training costs are as follows: Alabama, 90 trainees, $85,360; Colorado, 45 trainees, $42,000; Florida, 90 trainees, $91,000; Idaho, 60 trainees, $58,000; Indiana, 45 trainees, $39,740; North Carolina; 75 trainees, $57,000; Ohio, 120 trainees, $124,000; Pennsylvania, 45 trainees, $34,160; South Carolina, 45 trainees, $39,200; Tennessee, 135 trainees, $130,000; Utah, 60 trainees, $58,900.

# # #

Week of March 25, 1974

50 JOBLESS TO BE HIRED, TRAINED BY FIRMS
UNDER LABOR DEPARTMENT'S 'JOBS' PROGRAM

ATLANTA -- About 50 jobless persons from Tampa and Fort Lauderdale will be hired and trained by business firms in the area.

Assistant Regional Director for Manpower William U. Norwood in Atlanta said three contracts under the Job Opportunities in the Business Sector (JOBS) program have been funded for nearly $101,000 in federal money.

Details of the contracts follow:

-- Jackson Building Components of Fort Lauderdale will hire and train 30 persons as roofers and siders for periods ranging from 10 weeks to five months with hourly rates of $2.75 to $3.75. Federal funds: $51,913.

-- Ryder Truck Rental, Inc. of Tampa will hire and train 10 jobless workers as truck mechanics and truck mechanic helpers. Training period is 35 weeks with hourly rates of $3.20 to $3.70. Federal funds: $31,556.

-- Metro Contract Services of Tampa will hire and train 10 workers as truck drivers. Training period is 16 weeks with pay at $3.15 an hour. Federal funds: $17,234.

The JOBS program is a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Labor and the National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB) to hire and train the disadvantaged jobless. Under the program, the Secretary of Labor has established procedures to enlist the resources of private industry in providing entry-level jobs and training, as well as training needed for job upgrading.

Funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Labor to help companies offset the cost of recruiting, on-the-job training and needed supportive services such as remedial and basic education, job coaching, orientation, minor medical care, and transportation.

(MORE)

The Florida State Employment Service has assisted the employers in the development of the contracts and will recruit and refer certified disadvantaged persons to the employers. Other follow-up services will also be provided by the state agency.

# # #

Week of March 25, 1974

START LOOKING FOR SUMMER
JOBS NOW, YOUNG PEOPLE URGED

WASHINGTON -- Young people interested in summer work should start looking now.

This is one of the tips for young people in a new U.S. Department of Labor publication.

It's called "Do You Want a Summer Job: Tips on How to Find One" and is being distributed free by the state employment services.

Decide what you have to offer a prospective employer, the pamphlet advises young summer jobseekers. Take stock of your experience and education.

Then find out what jobs are open. A good place to do this is the local office of your state employment service.

When talking with a prospective employer, tell what you have to offer, young people are told.

The publication gives some summer job ideas. Some require experience, others don't.

They include: baby sitter, restaurant helper, caddie, camp counselor, gift wrapper, hospital worker, ice cream vendor, lifeguard, playground attendant, tennis court attendant, ticket taker, usher, window washer, yard worker.

In addition to state employment service offices, copies are available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Manpower Administration, Room 10007, 601 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20213.

# # #

Week of March 25, 1974

PROJECT TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM JOB HAZARDS
LAUNCHED BY LABOR DEPARTMENT, HEW

WASHINGTON -- Two federal agencies will launch a joint project to speed the development and expansion of health standards to protect American workers from on-the-job hazards.

The project will periodically issue over a 30-month period completed rules and regulations governing approximately 400 toxic substances.

An initial package of 40 standards is envisaged as a pilot program. At present, standards exist for the 400 substances but provide only threshold limit values for employee exposure.

Assistant Secretary of Labor John H. Stender, head of the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), said the $3.5 million project will be undertaken by OSHA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

NIOSH is the research arm for OSHA which enforces federal job safety and health laws.

During the past year, Stender has established as a high priority for OSHA an increased emphasis on occupational health. A current reorganization within the job safety and health agency will substantially increase the number of health standards personnel, he said, and additional compliance officers also are being recruited.

On Jan. 29, OSHA published 14 health standards to protect workers from cancer-producing substances used in industry.

More recently, the agency began an investigation into the dangers of vinyl chloride following reports of deaths and illnesses among workers engaged in the use of this substance.

(MORE)

One other OSHA health standard protects workers from the harmful effects of exposure to asbestos.

The completed standards would prescribe informing employees of hazardous substances, emergency treatment in the event of accidental exposure, and proper conditions and precautions for safe use of the substances.

The standards also would prescribe protective clothing and/or equipment, monitoring or measuring exposure conditions, recordkeeping requirements, and the type and frequency of medical surveillance for employees.

During the project, OSHA will continue to process NIOSH criteria documents.

# # #

EMPLOYMENT IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY FIELD

WASHINGTON -- Approximately 171,000 persons were employed in the atomic energy field as of July 31, 1973, according to a survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The survey, conducted by BLS for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), is the thirteenth annual survey since 1960.

Employment in the atomic energy field was almost equally divided between government-owned establishments operated by contractors (85,100) and privately-owned establishments (85,000) including nonprofit institutions. This was the first year in which employment in privately-owned establishments exceeded employment in government-owned facilities.

In government-owned establishments, employment has steadily declined since 1967, when approximately 101,500 were employed. From 1971 to 1973 employment dropped by about 10,000.

Employment in privately-owned establishments was 24,300 above the 61,500 reported in 1971.

However, comparisons with 1971 employment levels must be interpreted with caution. Only establishments believed by the AEC to be engaged in atomic energy activities are included in the survey, and for the 1973 survey, the AEC was able to identify a larger number of privately-owned establishments now engaged in such work.

It is not known how many, if any, of these additional establishments were engaged in atomic energy work in 1971.

(MORE)

About half of the reported increase of employment in privately-owned establishments in 1973 -- 12,900 employees -- is attributable to the new establishments added to the 1971 universe, and the remaining 11,400 represents growth over the two-year period.

The atomic energy field consists of a highly skilled and research oriented work force. More than 45 percent of all workers were scientists, engineers, and technicians in 1973. Engineers were the largest group, 33,000, followed by technicians, 31,800, including nuclear reactor operator, and scientists, 13,600.

About 45 percent -- 20,800 -- of the scientists and engineers were working on research and development projects. Approximately 34 percent of the engineers and close to 70 percent of the scientists were engaged in these activities.

Of 20 different industrial segments in the survey, three segments employed nearly 80,000 employees or 47 percent of the total manpower reported. These three segments were: weapons development and production, reactor design and manufacturing, and the design and engineering of nuclear facilities.

Employment in the atomic energy field is concentrated in large establishments. Approximately 65 percent of all atomic energy workers were working in facilities employing 1,000 or more workers. More than 75 percent of the research and development took place in these establishments.

(MORE)

Federal funds supported 55 percent of all scientists and engineers in atomic energy activities. In the private sector, only 17 percent of the scientists and engineers were supported with federal funds in 1973, down from 26 percent in 1971 and 32 percent in 1970.

Private industry's own funds supported 63 percent of their scientific and engineering work force, while other sources supported the remaining 20 percent.

Data for this survey were collected from the known universe of establishments in the atomic energy field as reported by the AEC as of July 1973. Data were obtained from about 60 government-owned establishments and approximately 740 privately-owned establishments. Excluded were employees of federal, state, and local government, those working in uranium mining and construction (other than reactors), and personnel employed in non-AEC connected unviersity atomic energy research and teaching.

# # #

Week of March 25, 1974

JOB SAFETY AND HEALTH LAW HAS PRODUCED
GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS, SCHUBERT SAYS

BOSTON -- In nearly three years, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Law has produced a growing public awareness about the problem of work-related accidents and illnesses.

But precise measurement of the impact of the law, which went into effect April 28, 1971, is difficult because of the lack of adequate statistics until recently, Under Secretary of Labor Richard F. Schubert told the 53rd Annual Massachusetts Safety Conference.

Until passage of the law, statistics on work-related accidents were collected voluntarily and included only disabling injuries, Schubert pointed out.

The statistics now being gathered by the Labor Department as part of its administration of the three-year-old law are only starting to bear fruit.

For example, they show that during 1972, one out of every 10 workers experienced some kind of job-related injury or illness, Schubert said.

The Labor Department does have statistics on inspections it has made since the law went into effect.

By the end of last year, the Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration had conducted 117,000 workplace inspections, Schubert said.

Those inspections produced more than 76,000 citations with proposed penalties of more than $10 million.

(MORE)

Calling the safety and health law "one of the finest pieces of legislation to be produced in this century," Schubert said it is evidence that conflicting groups can work together to pass measures that benefit millions of Americans.

Efforts to weaken or repeal this law have failed "because the goal of a safe and healthful work environment has continued to be a basic priority for this Administration," Schubert declared, "and because the support of thoughtful, responsible business and labor and professionals in the field of safety continues to outweigh the efforts of OSHA's critics."

Describing OSHA's program as a combination of enforcement, education and motivating voluntary compliance with the law, Schubert urged more federal-state partnership agreements as provided by the law.

He also noted that OSHA has been placing more emphasis on health standards to protect workers from job-related illnesses caused by the more than 25,000 known potentially toxic substances used in workplaces.

Both unions and trade associations are working with OSHA, and a key role is being played by the National Safety Council, which is conducting training through local affiliates for small and medium-sized employers to advance the aim of maximum voluntary compliance, Schubert said.

* * *

OSHA SETS HEARING ON PROPOSAL
TO REVOKE 'NO-HANDS-IN-DIES' RULE

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 13, to consider the agency's proposal to revoke its "no-hands-in-dies" job safety rule and to amend related regulations.

The basic issue is whether existing OSHA rules offer sufficient protection to operators of mechanical power presses to eliminate the need for the "no-hands-in-dies" rule, Assistant Secretary of Labor John H. Stender said.

The rule, scheduled to become effective Aug. 31, would require employers to use dies and power presses designed so operators need not place their hands in operating areas.

OSHA's proposal would revoke the requirement and substitute performance standards directing employers to eliminate hazards and furnish and enforce the use of hand tools to free or remove stuck work or scrap from dies.

Stender said the proposed revocation and amendments were developed on the basis of more than 300 responses to OSHA's original request for information last year. Recommendations from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), whose national consensus standard was the basis for the current OSHA standard, also were used in developing the proposal.

The proposed amendments would add three new rules:

-- Prohibition after Dec. 31, 1976, of the use of sweep devices as a means of guarding operators against injury.

-- Use of presence-sensing devices or two-hand controls both to be used with brake-monitoring devices, to prevent injuries.

(MORE)

-- A system of reporting power press operator injuries to provide OSHA with a means of monitoring the effectiveness of its revised standard.

Proposed amendments also include new definitions, requirements for control systems and press brake-monitoring devices, prohibition of certain guards in manual feeding operations, recognition of two additional alternative types of safeguarding devices, and requirements for minimum safety distances when using presence-sensing devices or two-hand controls as safeguards.

When operators must place their hands in operating areas to feed materials, the amendments also would prescribe reliability requirements for two-hand controls and presence-sensing devices effective July 1, 1975.

Public comments concerning the proposals should be sent by April 15 to J. Goodell, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, Room 240-MNWA, 1726 M. St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20210. Comments will be available for public inspection and copying at the same address. Comments also were invited on whether the existing effective date of the "no-hands-in-dies" requirement (Aug. 31) should be delayed pending completion of the proposed rulemaking procedure.

All data will be received by a Labor Department administrative law judge at a hearing to begin at 10 A.M., Monday, May 13, in Conference Room B, Departmental Auditorium, Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. Notices of intention to appear at the hearing must be submitted in three copies to J. Goodell by April 26.

(MORE)

Notices must include a statement of the position to be taken on any proposal, the evidence to be presented, name and address of the person to appear, the capacity in which he will appear, and the estimated time required for presentation.

Notice of the proposed amendments and of the hearing appeared in the Federal Register March 14.

Week of March 25, 1974

COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED JOB SAFETY RULES
FOR FARM TRACTORS EXTENDED BY LABOR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Labor has extended to April 5 the period for public comment on a proposal for rollover protective structures on farm tractors.

The Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) proposed on Feb. 4 a requirement for rollover protective structures on new farm tractors of over 20 engine horsepower purchased after Aug. 31 and used by employees.

Comments should be mailed by April 5 to the OSHA Office of Standards Development, U.S. Department of Labor, 1726 M. St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

The notice of additional time appeared in the Federal Register March 6.

* * *

World of Work

Garnishment Law Protects Wages

By PETER J. BRENNAN
Secretary of Labor

QUESTION: A friend told me part of his wages are garnished from his paycheck each week because of a debt he has. Can you explain to me what garnishment means?

ANSWER: Garnishment means that a court has ordered a portion of your friend's earnings to be withheld regularly from his paycheck by his employer and turned over to his creditor in payment of a debt. A garnishment action considers the employee's disposable earnings, which is the amount left after legally required deductions are made. These deductions include federal income tax, social security, or state and local tax withholding. There is a Federal Wage Garnishment Law (Title III of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, Public Law 90-321) to protect employees against undue garnishment. The law limits the amount of an employee's disposable earnings that may be garnished in any one week. It also protects him from being fired from his job because of garnishment for any one indebtedness. Under the law, it is illegal to garnish a worker's paycheck for more than 25 percent of his disposable weekly earnings, or the amount by which those disposable earnings for that week exceed 30 times the federal minimum wage. The minimum wage is presently $1.60 an hour. No garnishment may be made if disposable earnings are less than $48 a week.

* * * *

QUESTION: I read a lot of news about employment and unemployment in the paper. I've often wondered how the unemployment figures are compiled. Can you tell me how?

ANSWER: The figures are obtained from a monthly survey of about 50,000 households across the country. The survey, conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, considers a member of the labor force unemployed if (1) he or she has been without a job within the survey period, (2) is 16 years of age or older, (3) has been actively seeking employment during the four-week period (unless he or she has been on layoff or waiting to begin a new wage and salary job within 30 days) and (4) is available for work.

* * * *

Editor's note: If you have a question regarding job training and placement, labor-management relations, job health and safety, equal employment opportunity, wages and hours, employment and unemployment, prices and earnings and other matters involving the U.S. Department of Labor, send it to:

Peter J. Brennan
Secretary of Labor
"World of Work"
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Consumer

'Bread' for College (Continued)

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Whatever your income bracket, you probably won't find it easy to send your youngsters to college.

But don't despair.

Even if you cannot qualify for government financial aid—which I discussed in a previous column—there are many other places where you can look for help. For instance—

● The college itself. All schools offer some scholarships, grants, loans and part-time jobs. Often, a school puts together a package for a student, combining all those kinds of aid.

How can you get such help? Write to a college's financial aid officer, requesting information about and applications for financial aid.

Here's another possibility to consider: More and more schools are offering three-year degree programs, which allow students to save one year's room, board and other expenses.

● Private organizations. Business firms, labor unions, foundations, professional societies, national organizations and local groups offer thousands of scholarships and grants. Many of these are earmarked for people in particular fields of study such as law, engineering, library science and music.

● Commercial loans. Many banks make educational loans for college tuition and so do some credit unions. You will find that these loans are more expensive than the ones backed by Federal funds, but they do help somewhat to ease the squeeze on the family budget.

Help is also available from finance companies that specialize in educational loans. Since these commercial tuition payment plans vary widely in their interest rates and other costs, shop around before signing up. For names of these companies, consult the college's financial aid officer and the guidance counselor at your high school.

Since I can give you only general suggestions here, I suggest that you check these useful sources:

Need a Lift? An up-to-date guide to private and government sources of student financial aid. Order from American Legion, Dept. S, Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206; 50 cents.

Meeting College Costs in 1974-5, published by the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB). A guide to figure how much aid you might receive from a school. Available free from Publications Office, CEEB, Box 592, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

Chronicle of Higher Education. Ask for the list of colleges offering three-year programs for bachelor degrees. Write to Chronicle of Higher Education, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; 60 cents.

The College Handbook, published by CEEB. Gives costs and financial aid information for over 2,000 colleges.

Scholarships, Fellowships and Loans (Vol. V) by S. Norman Feingold. Extensive guide to sources of aid, indexed by fields of study.

For the last two books, check your library's reference shelf and your high school's guidance office—two good places to dig out still more information.

Week of March 25, 1974

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, later to become the American Federation of Labor, was organized in November 1881, in Pittsburgh, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

* * *

The first written contract between coal miners and operators, signed July 29, 1870, provided for a sliding scale of pay, based on the price of coal, according to "Important Events in American Labor History," a U.S. Department of Labor publication.

* * *

The Triangle Waist Co. fire in New York in 1911 caused the death of 146 workers and led to a move for improvement of factory conditions, according to "Important Events in American Labor History," a U.S. Department of Labor publication.

* * *

Massachusetts adopted the first minimum wage act for women and minors in 1912, according to "Important Events in American Labor History," a U.S. Department of Labor publication.

* * *

The U.S. Department of Labor was established by law in 1913.

* * *